



Pro Parks

Report to Citizens

2005 Annual Newsletter Pro Parks Levy



Gardeners enjoy the new Community Garden at Magnuson Park.

Mayor's Message

One of my priorities as Mayor is to help build stronger communities and healthy families. Partnerships between the community and government are critical to achieving this goal. In the first four years of the eight-year 2000 Pro Parks Levy we've worked hand-in-hand to achieve the successes we've seen thus far: increased programming, daylighted creeks and expanded environmental stewardship. We have also been able to match Levy funds with millions of dollars in grants and private donations to enhance park projects and buy additional land. Our capital improvement projects are on schedule and within budget.

Seattle has been called one of the most livable cities in the United States. I believe that's because of the people in our communities. Our neighborhoods are as varied and eclectic as the parks that serve them. Each time we begin a new project, make an acquisition, or create new programming with Levy funds, we begin by working with the community. That's the key to our success.

Thank you to the thousands of citizens who have participated in public processes that are leading to these accomplishments. Thank you to the volunteers, community activists and neighbors who are contributing their time, energy and talents to making Seattle the best it can be.

Greg Nickels,
Mayor, City of Seattle



Making the Most of Our Levy

A Message from the Superintendent

Our mission at Seattle Parks and Recreation is to work with all citizens to be good stewards of our environment, and to provide safe and welcoming opportunities to play, learn, contemplate and build community.

A prime example of this mission in action is the 2000 Pro Parks Levy. In the first four years of the Levy, we've seen great success in the area of capital improvements — completing 36 named projects on time and within budget. Our maintenance and programming got a boost in 2004 as we added 4,500 hours of custodial coverage to our busiest community centers, performed preventative forestry maintenance at 100 parks, provided 4,000 inner-city youth with summer day camp programs, and offered 149 more new classes and trips to senior adults — just to name a few accomplishments. In the past year, we've acquired six new properties for new parks and to preserve green spaces.

Along the way, we've worked with citizens to build community and enhance sustainability. Our priority is to leave the legacy of a viable, environmentally healthy park system to future generations. Partnerships with individual neighbors, community groups, other government agencies and the private sector have led, and will continue to lead, to more and better parks. We appreciate your involvement and keen interest in your community and the Pro Parks Levy.



Ken Bounds
Seattle Parks and Recreation Superintendent



Workers place artist Stacy Levy's Cloud Stones, highly polished stones that reflect the sky, in Mineral Springs Park.

1% for Art

The Pro Parks Art Plan emphasizes nature and the environment and calls for the careful placement of art within chosen parks that will inspire, engage and bring people back again and again.

The Pro Parks Levy allocates \$1.1 million for public art. Art has been installed at Mineral Springs Park and Bergen Place Park. Other projects include:

Lake City Civic Core/Albert Davis Park.....	2004-5
I-5 Open Space.....	2005
South Lake Union Park.....	2005-6
Westcrest Park.....	2005-6
Jefferson Park.....	2005-7
Dexter Pit Park.....	2006-7
Magnuson Park.....	2006-7
Rainier Beach Public Plaza.....	TBD
One additional park.....	TBD

The art program also supported a Writer-in-Residence who wrote 12 stories about people and parks. They are available on the web at www.seattle.gov/parks. A pocket-size folding Seattle map with story excerpts is also available at most park facilities.

Sustainable construction

The City's Sustainable Building Program is the foundation for construction practices within the Parks Department. The emphasis is on efficient lifecycle costs, social benefits and environmental performance. Parks measures its success with a sustainability scorecard, which prioritizes, tracks and reports on 11 key factors.

All new construction focuses on:

- Increasing the (local) ecological function of landscape, forest and waterways
- Reducing initial and ongoing adverse (global) environmental impacts
- Building community and increasing comfort, health and safety
- Reducing operations and maintenance costs

Moving toward these goals, in 2004 Parks installed porous concrete that allows rainfall to seep into the ground more naturally at both Oxbow and Ernst parks, and improved indoor air quality at Golden Gardens Bathhouse, Alki Bathhouse and Cowen Park Shelterhouse.

For more information on Seattle Parks Sustainable Building Program, including our sustainable building scorecard, visit: www.seattle.gov/parks/sustainable/



Porous concrete at Oxbow Park reduces impervious surface areas, promoting more natural drainage.

Adding to the Legacy



Mayor Greg Nickels, Superintendent Ken Bounds and Nelson family members dedicate the new Edwin S. Nelson addition to the Me-Kwa-Mooks Natural Area in West Seattle.

Purchasing lands for new parks and preservation

The Levy was designed not only to enhance programming, improve maintenance and upgrade existing parks, but also to add land to the park system. Property acquisitions provide new neighborhood parks, preserve forested areas and safeguard creek corridors. During the first four years of the Levy, we have added more than 32 acres of new park land. By partnering with other governmental agencies and private donors, Parks has successfully leveraged the \$31 million provided by the Levy for acquisition into more than \$48 million.

In 2004, Parks acquired the following properties:

- ◆ Wolf Creek Ravine: .13-acre property donated on Queen Anne Hill
- ◆ Queen Anne Park: .28-acre site purchased in Uptown for a new park
- ◆ Thornton Creek: .5-acre area along the creek
- ◆ Property in Duwamish Head and SW Queen Anne Greenbelts
- ◆ Me-Kwa-Mooks: conservation easement

An Opportunity to fund more

The Levy was intended to be flexible and meet the ever-changing needs of the communities it serves. That's why Levy planners included the \$10 million Opportunity Fund to provide money for park acquisition and development projects nominated by the community. The Levy's Oversight Committee provides guidance for the fund.

The committee split funding into two rounds. Round one project selection occurred in 2001–2002 and funded 19 citizen-initiated projects. Twelve of these projects have been completed, and 2004 accomplishments included acquisition of property for a new park in Pinehurst and support for development of the International District Chinatown Community Center as well as new boardwalk and habitat restoration at Licton Springs Park.

In 2005, the Oversight Committee will review applications that have been received from throughout the city and make recommendations for funding.



The Levy funded the purchase of the Uptown neighborhood's top priority site for a new park.



Members of City Council, Seattle Parks Foundation Board, donors and the community join Superintendent Ken Bounds in breaking ground to begin renovations at the newly acquired Lake People (Xacua'bs) Park.

Seattle Parks Foundation

One of the many ways Seattle is partnering with the community is through the Seattle Parks Foundation. The Foundation is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to improving, renewing, and expanding Seattle's parks and green spaces. Philanthropic and civic leaders formed the Seattle Parks Foundation in 2001 to advocate for and bring resources to area parks. With oversight from a committed 28-member board of directors, the Seattle Parks Foundation works with dedicated neighborhood volunteers and generous donors to create park spaces that are true community assets. In just over three years, the Parks Foundation has completed two brand new parks, seven park improvement projects, and has provided technical assistance and fiscal sponsorship to many more community park projects. You can become involved by calling 206-332-9900 or by visiting www.seattleparksfoundation.org.



Serving Our Community

A significant portion of the Pro Parks Levy is allocated for programs that enhance people's lives and improve the environment.



Members of the Senior Adult Theater Group perform "Age Puzzles Me" at the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center.

Youth, Teens and Senior Adults

The **Learn To Swim** program provides free swimming lessons for children in grades three and four and who attend school in Seattle. More than 1,150 children participated in the program in 2004. The Levy financed additional days of operation and extended hours at our **wading pools**. In 2004, Parks offered 149 **Senior Adult** classes, serving more than 1,200 seniors. Highlights include the Senior Adult Theater Group at the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center and the Greater Seattle Senior Games.

Teen Development

Levy funded teen programming served more than 32,000 youths in 2004. Parks made improvements

in the variety, number and accessibility of services by working with the University of Washington and teen stakeholders to develop five areas of focus that respond to needs and desires voiced by program participants. The new citywide programming specialties include Academic Support/Employment Readiness, Arts/Culture/Special Events, Health/Sports/Fitness, Leadership/Civic Engagement and Outdoor Recreation/Environmental Stewardship.

Through Parks-sponsored programming Seattle teens have become national leaders in the areas of the arts and leadership. In 2004, teens from Seattle attended and made a presentation at the National Youth-At-Risk conference in Georgia. They shared information about youth art and community leadership opportunities. Upon their return, Mayor Greg Nickels and the City Council recognized them for their contributions.

Enhanced maintenance

Levy-funded workers clean our pools and community centers and comfort stations and, provide litter control, garbage collection, play area and picnic shelter maintenance, among many other activities that make our parks more enjoyable. In 2004, crews ramped up recycling collection efforts, and implemented the use of environmentally friendly pool cleaning products.

Supporting our environment

Levy money supports efforts to educate citizens about the environment, implement system-wide changes that reduce our impact on the environment and support ongoing forestry initiatives. The **Environmental Stewardship Unit** co-led a citywide paper use reduction program, and successfully converted all facilities to the use of approved green cleaning products. **Naturalists**

at Seward and Carkeek parks provided educational programs to Seattle school children and the general public. **Natural Area Crews** worked with 767 volunteers at 72 projects in 60 parks, removing invasive plants, cleaning and clearing illegal dump sites, removing noxious weeds and planting 2,000 trees and shrubs.

Woodland Park Zoo

The Pro Parks Levy supports core zoo operations, including animal care, horticulture, admissions and security staff. Levy proceeds also are critical to broadening zoo access and programs, through subsidized admission and transportation for those Seattle schools with 30 percent or more of their students on the free and reduced lunch program (School-to-Zoo), through on-grounds and outreach programs for schools, and enhancing the zoo's capacity for web-based on-line education programs.

In 2004, more than 13,000 Seattle students visited the zoo; 8,000 of them participated in the Levy funded School-to-Zoo program. Levy funds also enabled more than 2,000 students to see live birds of prey through the Save Our Amazing Raptors (SOAR) program, and more than 5,000 fifth to seventh graders to learn about nature through our Wild Wise program. The Levy funded restoration of the zoo's main loop pathway, up-grades to the exhibit heating for gorillas, construction of exterior holding facilities for the Colobus monkeys, replacement of the fabric cover for "Butterflies and Blooms," and the conversion of several buildings into the wildly popular "Masters of the Web" exhibit.



Kakuta Hamisi, a Maasai junior elder, shares his real-life experiences at the zoo's African Village.

Developing Our System

The Levy includes \$102 million over its eight-year life for 95 named projects that will improve parks and park facilities, create new parks on undeveloped sites, restore wetlands, enhance buildings, and improve ballfields and trails. During the first four years of Levy implementation, we have started 44 of those projects and completed 36. Our projects are on schedule and within budget.



In September 2004, the community gathered to celebrate the opening Fremont's newest park: A. B. Ernst Park.



In 2004, the Levy provided funding to complete improvements at Kubota Garden.

Completed Projects in 2004

1. Meadowbrook Playfield
2. North Teen Life Center
3. Bergen Place Park
4. Bitter Lake Reservoir Open Space
5. Ernst Park (Fremont)
6. Golden Gardens Bathhouse
7. Mineral Springs Park (North Seattle)
8. Oxbow Park (Georgetown)
9. Gas Works Park
10. Cheasty Boulevard
11. Kubota Garden
12. Alki Beach Bathhouse
13. Alki Substation Park
14. 6th Ave NW Pocket Park (Whittier Substation)
(Pro Parks portion)
15. Rainier Playfield – trails
16. Hiawatha Entry improvements
17. Longfellow Creek Trail
18. Cowen Park – Creek Daylighting & Shelterhouse

Opportunity Fund Development projects

1. Flo Ware Park – Opportunity Fund
2. Chinatown ID Village Square – Opportunity Fund
3. Licton Springs – Opportunity Fund

Mayor Greg Nickels Priorities for Seattle

- ◆ Get Seattle Moving
- ◆ Keep Our Neighborhoods Safe
- ◆ Create Jobs and Opportunity For All
- ◆ Build Strong Families and Healthy Communities

The Big Picture: A Funding Overview

For this Levy, funds are collected and expenditures are made every year throughout its eight-year life.

Acquisition

Neighborhood Park Acquisition.....	\$16 million
Green Space Acquisition.....	\$10 million
Total	\$26 million

Development

Neighborhood Parks.....	\$52.8 million
Major Neighborhood Parks	\$23.1 million
Playfields and Facilities.....	\$17.9 million
Trails	\$9.0 million
Total	\$102.8 million

Acquisition & Development

Opportunity Fund	\$10 million
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Environmental Stewardship, Maintenance and Programming

New Park/Green Space Maintenance	\$7.6 million
Environmental Stewardship.....	\$9.7 million
Enhanced Park & Facility Maintenance....	\$5.3 million
Recreational Programming	\$16.9 million
Zoo Programming	\$21.8 million
Total	\$61.3 million

Use of Funds Total	\$200.2 million
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Projected Funding Sources

Levy proceeds	\$198.2 million
Interest earnings	\$2 million

Getting Involved

Citizens help guide the process

The Parks and Green Spaces Levy Oversight Committee is a group of individuals who have been appointed by Mayor Greg Nickels and the City Council to help ensure successful implementation of the projects and programs included in the Levy. These volunteers act in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, the Superintendent and City Council on issues ranging from Levy expenditures and allocations to overseeing the acquisition and development Opportunity Fund. This citizen panel meets regularly and encourages public participation. For more information, please see:

www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/levycommittee.asp



Citizen volunteers on the Levy Oversight Committee and Parks staff recently took a tour of park sites.

Current members are:

Russ Brubaker, Chair
Maisha Barnett
Susan Casey
Douglas Dunham
Terry Holme
Jeff Hou
Philippe Jeoffroy
Cheryl Klinker
Sharon Lee
Marshall Livingston
Peter Lukevich
Adrian Moroles
Joyce Moty
Jackie Ramels
Keith Rickards

Participate in Park Planning

When planning a new park or upgrading an existing facility, Parks can have no better partner than the community — both individuals and private industry. In the past four years, thousands of neighbors and corporate citizens have assisted in helping guide the process of acquiring new park lands and developing existing ones. With dozens of projects in development each year of Levy, Parks welcomes you to become involved.

If you want to be added to the mailing list, contact Jacqueline Davis at 206-233-3872 or jacqueline.davis@seattle.gov.



Opportunities to participate in the planning and development of our parks happen throughout the year. Check our web site for more details: www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks.

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor, City of Seattle

Kenneth R. Bounds, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation

Erin Devoto, Director, Parks Planning and Development

Donald Harris, Manager, Parks Acquisition

Michael Shiosaki, Manager, Pro Parks Development



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